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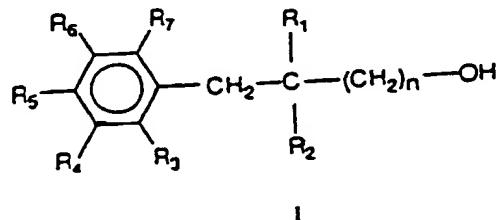
Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 14 which contains

- (a) 0.01 to 10% by wt. of a compound of formula I, and
- (b) 0.1 to 90% by wt. of a compound selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl alcohols, unsubstituted or substituted with a C₆-C₁₂ aryl, aralkyl or aryloxy group, anionic cationic, amphoteric or nonionic surfactants, dimethylformamide, betaines and glycerine.

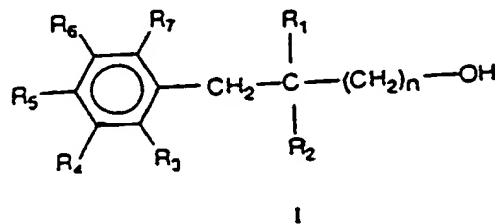
Claims 9-12 (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A compound according to formula I,



wherein R₁, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₇ are hydrogen; R₂ is an ethyl group; R₄ is chlorine; and n is 1 or 2.

14. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative comprising:
a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and
at least one compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2,

with the proviso, that

- i) when R₁ and all groups R₃ through R₇ are hydrogen, then

n = 2;

- ii) when R₁ and R₂ are C₁-C₆ alkyl and
 - a) all groups R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, or
 - b) R₅ is methyl, methoxy or chloride, and all other groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen,
then n = 2;
- iii) when R₁, R₂ and R₄ are methyl and all groups R₃ and R₅ through R₇ are hydrogen, then n = 2;
- iv) when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2;
- v) when R₁, R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and R₄ and/or R₅ are hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, then n = 2;
- vi) when R₁ and R₄ through R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl or ethyl, and R₃ is methyl or methoxy, then n = 2;
- vii) when R₁, R₃, R₅ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, R₄ and R₆ are methyl or R₄ is hydrogen and R₆ is methyl, then n = 2; and
- viii) when R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is butyl, R₃ and R₅ are chloride, and all other groups R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, then n = 2.

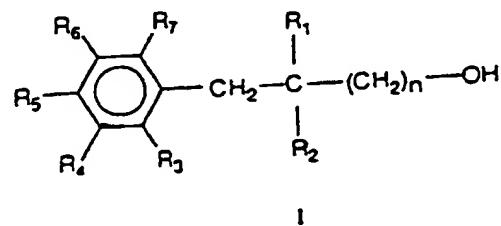
Claim 15 (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 10% by weight.

17. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 8% by weight.

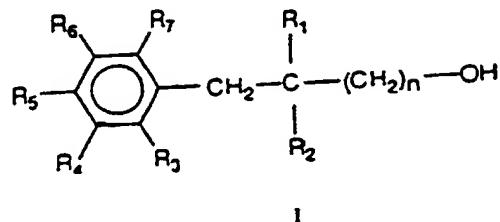
18. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 5% by weight.

19. (withdrawn) A compound according to the formula I



wherein R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are all hydrogen, R₅ is methyl, R₂ is ethyl, R₁ is hydrogen, and n = 1.

20. (withdrawn) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:



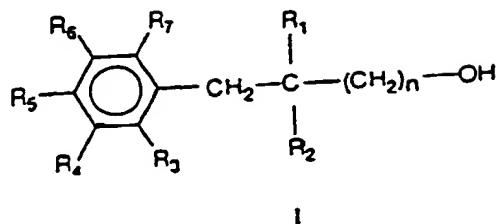
wherein, R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are all hydrogen, R₅ is methyl, R₂ is ethyl, R₁ is hydrogen, and n = 1

said process comprising the steps of:

- monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R₂;
- dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R₃ through R₇ which are other than hydrogen;
- saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
- reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.

21. (previously presented) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative comprising:
a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents;
a re-fattening agent; and

a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

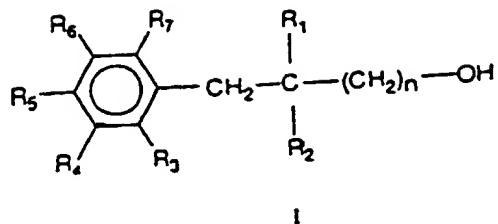
R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

22. (previously presented) A method of disinfecting a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said disinfectant comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and

a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

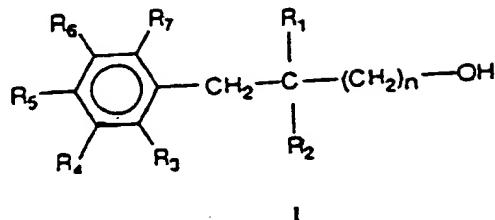
R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said surface is skin, a mucous membrane, or a surgical glove.

24. (previously presented) A method of deodorizing a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said deodorant comprising:
a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and

a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

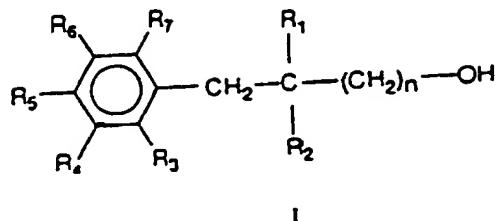
R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said surface is skin.

26. (previously presented) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1;

said process comprising the steps of:

- monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R₂;
- dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R₃ through R₇ which are other than hydrogen;
- saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and

d) reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.

Claim 27 (canceled)

28. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is hydrogen and n is 1.

29. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and n is 1.

30. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and n is 1.

31. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl, and n is 1.

32. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl, and n is 1.
33. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
34. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R₄ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₃ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
35. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₅ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
36. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein are hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

37. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₄ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₃ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
38. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
39. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methoxy, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
40. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are methoxy, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.
41. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is butylene, and n is 1.

42. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is pentyl and n is 1.

43. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R₁ is C₂H₅, R₂ through R₇ are H, and n is 1.

44. (withdrawn) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative according to claim 21, wherein R₁ is C₂H₅, R₂ through R₇ are H, and n is 1.

45. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, wherein R₁ is C₂H₅, R₂ through R₇ are H, and n is 1.

46. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 24, wherein R₁ is C₂H₅, R₂ through R₇ are H, and n is 1.

47. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein R₁ is C₂H₅, R₂ through R₇ are H, and n is 1.

48. (new) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein

R₁ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

R_2 is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl; and each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2,

with the proviso, that

i) when R_1 and all groups R_3 through R_7 are hydrogen, then

$n = 2$;

ii) when R_1 and R_2 are C_1 - C_6 alkyl and

a) all groups R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, or

b) R_5 is methyl, methoxy or chloride, and all other groups R_3 ,

R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen,

then $n = 2$;

iii) when R_1 , R_2 and R_4 are methyl and all groups R_3 and R_5 through R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$;

iv) when R_1 and all groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and R_5 is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then $n = 2$;

v) when R_1 , R_3 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and R_4 and/or R_5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, then $n = 2$;

vi) when R_1 and R_4 through R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl or ethyl, and R_3 is methyl or methoxy, then $n = 2$;

- vii) when R₁, R₃, R₅ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, R₄ and R₆ are methyl or R₄ is hydrogen and R₆ is methyl, then n = 2; and
- viii) when R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is butyl, R₃ and R₅ are chloride, and all other groups R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, then n = 2.

49. (New) A composition according to claim 21, comprising 5 to 25% by weight of surfactants.